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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1904.

If you go to the mountains, seashore or country, have The Times-Dispatch

City subscribers before leaving th their carrier or this office ('Phone 38). If you write, give both out-of-town and city addresses.

### Rural Protection.

We are gratified to observe that the suggestion recently made in these columns that the rural districts of the South should have better police attention is attracting notice. In reply to a recent article in this paper, we have received the following

communication:
Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir.—Your editorial of the 2d, quoting "Clitizon's" wise suggestions on the subject of "Better Protection to Country" people and property is timely. I beg you to continue to invite the views of Virginians as to this, in my opinion, the most important subject that bears now upon the social and material good of Virginia. You truthfully say we need prevention of crime and depredation—some power similar to your city police. Imagine your city with no police force, only the law, to punish criminals! Of course, the country don't need such constant polica protection as a city, but does need some legally authorized power to whom the helpless can appeal for protection to person and property—some one authorized to halt, question and, if proper, pless can appeal for protection to perand property—some one authord to halt, question and, if proper,
est suspicious characters. The
the cannot be denied that in
country there is no protection
on assault and depredation. That is,
one puthorized to prevent it at all, and
consequence is that the larger porn of Virginia's best people have moved
the cities, and their healthful, valuable
autiful homes left to thriftless temants
d for sale at from 3 to 510 per acre.
Why do you want to bury me?" is the
setion the wife asks her husband when
mentions going to the country to live.

question the wife asks her husband when he mentions going to the country to live. One cent repr acre taxes would give us a mounted patrol to scour the district "ad libitum," and would in a few years add one dollar per acre to the value of very much of Virginia's land. That's prhy Virginia don't fill up. No country roads at all; no protecton from assault and trespass.

C. S. ANDERSON.

C. S. ANDERSON. Ashe Cake, Va.

As sair in the previous article. We do not undertake to outline a specific plan, but only to make suggestions of a general character. But we are convinced that the counties of Virginia and of other Southern States must eventually tax themselves to provide the means of employing a competent policy force. Each county should have a sufficient number of patrolmen to keep evil-doers in awa citizens will volunteer and agree to give their services for nothing, so the better. It was customary in other days for almost every town to have that citizens will volunteer in this ser vice of protection. But whether they volunteer or not each and every county should have a well-equipped and compe ent police force, and the sooner the bet

We have learned a valuable lesson in the matter of protection from fire. We have learned that the sensible thing to do is to use all the means at hand prevent fire, and those cities which comply with the scientific regulations of insurance companies get the lowest rate of insurance. We should apply the same principle in fighting the beast in human form who prowls around and does mischief. We should employ all the means possible to apprehend him in advance. and not wait until some horrible crime has been committed and then mets out

When one of these brutes has committed a nameless crime men are only too willing to organize and search for him until they capture him, and I often happens that they deal with them and there without judge or Jury. How much better it would be for men to use dillgence in advance to prevent the crime In a great measure this can be accomplished with the right sort of work and organization; it may be expensive; it will certainly involve some additional cost, but money could not be better ex-pended. Such a movement would be in the inthe interest of safety; in terest of law order, if not in the interest of economy. We verily believe that it would be cheaper to expend money in preventing crime than in jail

fees and expensive trials.

## One Beneficent War.

War is horrible, and as the world be comes more and more civilized it gets But war is sometimes necessary, and the pears that our war with Spain was un- efforts for civic beauty were crowned

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avoidable, and from every point of view seems to have been beneficial in its results. The yoke of Spanish oppression has been removed from the neck of Cuba, and Bishop Warren A. Candler, who has recently returned from the Cuban repub- found ready and willing to help as far llo declares that the order is good; that life and property are as secure as any- beautiful, but it will need public spirited that the administration of where, and

sides. On the other hand, Richard Guenther United States consul-general to Frankfort, Germany, quotes from a report of the German consul-general at Barcelona, Spain, to the effect that the condition of Spain is much improved and that the country has recovered from the crisis brought on by the war with the United States in 1898. He says that the recovery has been much assisted by the increased demand for goods from Spain's lost colonies, as the war had interfered with recent supplies, and that another stimulus was given by the return of many colonial States as follows: was given by the return of many colonial capitalists, who settled in Spain and invested their money there, thereby giving their impetus to trade, finance and internal enterprise.

According to this report, the foreign trade of Spain in 1903 amounted to 1937,634,200. The loss of the colonies, it is cordingly to the number male inhabitance of the colonies, it is cordingly to the number male inhabitance of the second seco

to give their attention to home improvehas set in. Spain has discovered that her coll is very productive, and that while she has been importing coal, she has extensive coal deposits of her own, which are scarcely touched. The situation is so good as to induce capitalists from other countries to make investments, and altogether Spain seems to be in a more prosperous condition than ever before in her Congress, and the power to enforce all the provisions of this article by any appresentment against the United States, propriate legislation." and our trade with Spain is on the in-

It appears, therefore, that this war was Spain and was of benefit to the United States, inasmuch as the independence of Cuba has removed a menace to our peace.

## Personal Liberty.

A correspondent of the New York Times a plan he thinks should commend itself to the approval of same men in all rela-His plan contemplates the enactment of a law containing the follow-

enactment of a law containing the tollowing general provisions:

Any one, or more representatives of a labor union, duly organized or otherwise, shall have the privilege of recommending a strike. When so recommended, under any rules that may be desired, the men who are employed shall decide by secret bailot whether the said recommendation be approved or disapproved. If a majority of all employes affected do not yote affirmatively, there shall be no strike. The voting and balloting shall be in cliarge of and managed by city or State officials, in order that coercion may be avoided. Bailots to be as carefully prepared, guarded and supervised as in the case of voting at State or municipal elections. Every safeguard possible should be provided to protect each, workingman in the exercise of his rights. It should not be possible to detect his vote. He should be as free to express his desire, without influence or molestation, as when young at a Federal or State election.

It is not stated whether this should ing general provisions:

It is not stated whether this should be a national or a State law, but of doing? For our part, we think it would course it would have to be a special enactment for each State, as the Federal government would have no right to the entire Fiftgenth amendment to be make such a law for the nation. Nor abolished, thus leaving each State free would the General Assembly of Virginia to regulate the suffrage. The Fifteenth have the right to enact such a law for this State, for the simple reason that it is forbidden by the first section of our Bill of Rights, which provides "that all men are by nature equally free and independent and have certain inherent rights, of which, when they enter into state of society, they cannot, by any compact, deprive, or divest their posternamely, the enjoyment of life and liberty, with the means of acquiring and possessing property and pursuing and

obtaining happiness and safety." It is a source of constant surprise, not to say wonder, to us that American chiwho have been reared in an atmos phere of liberty, should propose such an absurd regulation as that. Nor is this correspondent singular in his views. There are many persons who think that everything should be regulated by law, est resistance were the cottonwoods. With leaving nothing to the discretion and all their quick growth, adds the Dispatch, privilege of the individual. Every Amer- there comes a toughness of fibre and a ican citizen has a right to work and has a right to quit work when the terms do not suit him. He may quit as an indi- storms. vidual or an association of workmen may quit in a body, and the government has no right under the Constitution to interfere. Daprive men of these rights, either the right to work or the right to quit work, and American liberty will be at

The only thing that the government has to do with it is to see that each and every citizen is protected in these and similar rights. When workmen quit they must be orderly and they must not at tempt to interfere with others who may wish to take their places, for that would be tresposs. But the proposition that the government has any sort of power under the Constitution to prevent strikes is proposition too absurd for serious argument. We mention the incident by way of showing how absurd some men can be.

## The Manoeuvres at Manassas.

The Times-Dispatch has already arranged to give the best possible service from Manassas. In addition to its regular Washington correspondent, Mr. W. E. Harris, The Times-Dispatch has sent Mr. Allen Potts as a special correspondent to follow the maneuvres in the field. Mr. Potts is taking his two heavy-weight hunters, Bachelor and Brunette, and this own tent and equipments. He is campmatter during the manoeuvres in addition to that furnished by the Associated Press and our regular correspondent, Mr. Harris, who will be attached to the Virginia troops at Camp No. 1, and will give all the news from this quarter,

## Public Spirit and Civic Beauty.

which awarded the prizes in this contest. The Times-Dispatch is properly gratified at the great success with which its

but the city of Richmond belongs to the people of Richmond, and it is from the co-operation of the people that the final

achievement must come. The Times-Dispatch will always be as a paper can in making our city wholly assistance from all sorts and conditions President Palma is commended on all of men to help in this work, and we take this occasion to express on behalf of the Civic Improvement League, the children gardeners, the public and ourselves the thanks that are properly due to the committee who helped in the work that we undertook.

### A Sixteenth Amendment.

In the current issue of the North American Review is an article by Mr. Charles W. Thomas, in which he advocates the adoption of a sixteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United

icclared, has induced the Spanish people tants of the age of twenty-one years o give their attention to home improvement and to enterprise, and a new era ment and to enterprise, and a new era set in. Spain has discovered that her states, respectively, to vote for the choice of electors for President and Vice-President. dent of the United States and for rep-

resentatives in Congress.

"No. 3.—Congress shall have power, by laws uniform in their operation, to fix the time and prescribe the manner of holding elections for the choice of electors for President and Vice-President of the United States and representatives in We have not the space to give even

a synopsis of Mr. Thomas's argument, but he says in general terms that he is of benefit to Cuba, was of benefit to persuaded that such an amendment would place the power to regulate the suffrage where it was before the Fifteenth amendment was adopted. That it would permit the States, as far as their local elections are concerned, to abridge or deny the vote thereat as they see fit and proposes, as a means of averting strikes, yet visit them with no penalty whatsoever for so doing. It simply provides that their representation in the electoral college and in Congress shall be as they severally choose to make it by affrmative legislation. If any State desires a maximum national representation It will, by law, permit all citizens of the United States twenty-one years of ago and over to vote for electors and representatives, as is now the case under the States of the Union. If any State concludes that the evils of an extended suffrage in that regard more than counterbalance the benefits to be derived from a full national representation, it can so provide.

But why should there be any penalty whatsoever? If it be in the interest of the Southern States or of any State to abridge the suffrage, why should such State be made to pay a penalty for so be advisable and most desirable for section 2 of the Fourteenth amendment and amendment is to all intents and purposes a dead letter and will ever be, and we have no idea that the penalty in section 2 of the Fourteenth amendment will ever be enforced. From every point of view, it is better to have no law on a subject like this than to have a law which is utterly disregarded.

relative merits of shade trees was well shown by the effects of the recent tornado in that city. The soft maples and the box elders suffered most, and the elms were next in the list of casualties. The hard maples stood the strain better, but the oaks gave up their branches to the winds. The trees showing the greatspread of root grasp that makes them the least subject of all to assaults of

Fortunately, Richmond is not subject to tornadoes, but every now and then we have severe wind-storms in which the fragile trees are sure to suffer. We should have an eye to this when we select our trees for planting, but let it be understood that this is no plea for the cottonwood,

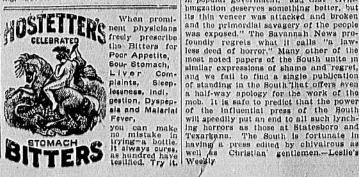
## Labor Day Parade.

The parade of the organized workmen of Richmond yesterday was most creditable and impressive. The men made a fine appearance, and gave abundant evidence of their self-respect and prospority.

Richmond has every reason to be proud of her workmen, and they have every reason to be proud of themselves. The Times-Dispatch congratulates the various trade organizations upon the success of the parade and of the day's celebration.

The War in the East. Our dispatches from the far East show that the Russians are on the run, and that they have suffered severe losses, although General Stokelberg has man aged to make good his escape and has joined the main army of General Kuro-

The report that the Czar is going to the front is not confirmed at this writing, but if it is true, it shows how



Sour Stomach, Liver Com-plaints, Sleeplessness, Indi-gestion, Dyspep-sia and Majariai

lesperate the situation is regarded at St. Petersburg.

sight, but if Japan drives the Russians cut of Manchuria and takes Port Arthur, will she not have gained all that she set out to do, and will she not have won the fight? It seems so to us.

for Governor of Missourl, is doing some mighty straightforward talking; In a speech he made the other day, he said: "I do not want any boodlers to vote for me. Next to defeating them the highest honor would be to be defeated by them."

The smoke arising from a thousand or more old Virginia tobacco barns tells us that there is going to be something winter.

The plous Danville Council has ar ranged for a prayer meeting to precede each meeting of the two plous branches for city supplies will make a note of this and advance their quotations accordingly.

your Uncle Grover has not said a word for four weeks, and that is all the evidence we need that the fish are biting right along.

Civil War, managed to find a stopping place, but Kuropatkin is not equal to that. He keeps right on retreating.

muskets on the field of Manassas are exciling, but do not cause the trembling

Wisconsin is certainly going to get in line by or before election day, but just exactly which line, is yet a matter of

Arkansas, Vermont and Maine will decide will be the odds on future politi-It might not be a had idea to get the

About the only thing the elections in

Manassas armies to come this way and turn their guns on the mosquitor army that is now invading Richmond. Talking about "bunker corn crops," old

Virginia isn't asking any odds of Kansas or anybody else this good year. We can't imagine anything that would

suit General Corbin much better than fighting bulletless battles.

## Half Hour With Virginia Editors.

Men may come and newspapers may go out old-time Virginia journalism seem destined to go on forever. For instance witness the following from the North ampton Times, and all for a mess of to

edge a more highly appreciated gift than that received a few days ago of our esteemed fellow countyman and friend, Samuel Townsend; a basket of decidedly makes them irresistible to victory in ever venture. It is such men that erect the bow of promise in a community; such men that furnish inspiration to those among whom they move."

The South Boston News is getting along in years, although it is something more han a half a century younger than its venerable and amiable. In its last week's edition the News says:

"With this issue. The News enters upon its fifteenth year, and we take occasion to express our profound thanks for the liberal patronage and unremitting kindness of our friends. The large and constantly increasing subscription list, is the erst evidence of the appreciation of our efforts to give to the good people of Hal-ifax and surrounding counties, a live and up-to-date newspaper. Thanks."

The ancient capital of Virginia seems to be getting a little tired of the business of furnishing amusement to excursionists and posing for sight seers. The last is sue of the Williamsburg Gazette, says: sue of the Williamsburg Gazette, says:

"We notice that in violation of a city ordinance the Courthouse Green is used by excursionists as a ball ground. We do not understand how this is possible. If we have laws let them be enforced. If not good laws, then repeal them. These excursions make it very uncomfortable for all the dwellers around the Courthouse Green. It is a wonder that they do not enter a strong protest against the habit of excursionists crowding around their fences and otherwise making things hideous both to the eye and the ear.

A Tribute to the Southern Press The most wholesome and promising evidence of the sincerity of the southern evidence of the sincerity of the southern people in their repeated declaration that they would take care of the negro question themselves if it were committed to their charge, is found in the prompt and vigorous denunciation of the horrible affair at Statesboro by all' the representative journals of the South. The Charleston News and Courier declares that this defiance of the law by a brutal mob "endangers southern civilization." The Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution points out that anta 'Ga.) Constitution points out that the mub defeated the ends of justice, and the Richmond Times-Dispatch says that the Renmond Times-Dispaten says that this terrible affair "makes every chival-rous southern man hang his head with shame." The Memphis Appeal says that the burning of the two negroes "was an atrocity that is calculated to shake faith in popular government," and that "civil" hingation deserves something better, but its thin veneer was attacked and broken and the primordial savagery of the people was exposed." The Savannah News prefoundly regrets what it calls "a law-less deed of horror." Many other of the west noted appears of the South units in most noted papers of the South unite in similar expressions of shame and regret similar expressions of shame and regret, and we fail to find a single publication of standing in the South That offers even a half-way apology for the work of the mob. It is safe to predict that the power of the influential press of the South will speedly put an end to all such lynching horrors as those at Statesboro and Texarkana. The South is fortunate in having a press edited by chivalrous as

# SEPT. 6TH IN WORLD'S HISTORY.

John XIII., Pope, died. He was elected by the power of the emperor against the wishes of the Roman people. A violent dissension was the consequence, and the new Pontiff was banished the next year by the prefect of Rome; he was reinstated by the emperor, and his opponent, in

turn, sent into exile.

Columbus sailed from the Canaries, where he had been detained since the 12th of August in refitting for the voyage.

1521.

John Sebastian del Cano, having on the death of Magellan, been appointed captain of the Spanish expedition for the discovery of a western passage to the Molucca or Spice Islands, conducted the remainder of the voyage, which was finished this day. This was the first voyage round the world. It sailed August 10, 1519, from Seville, and consisted of five ships and 236 men. Only one ship of this squadron ever reached Spain.

1578.

Drake, having passed the Stralis of Magellan, entered the Pacific Ocean on his memorable campaign against the Spanish treasure ships.

Hudson, having anchored at Sandy Hook, sent forward five men in a Hudson, naving anchored at Sandy Hook, sent forward five hier in the in a boat, who passed through the Narrows, sounding as they went. They were attacked by two Indian canoes, and John Colman, an Englishman, who had accompanied Hudson in his polar voyages, was killed. This was the first European blood that was shed in these waters. The place where he was nterred is still called Colman's Point. 1620.

The Mayflower, with its company, consisting of 101 passengers, sailed from Plymouth, England, for merica; having been obliged to put back twice on account of the leaky condition of the Speedwell, which was to sail with her. This was the company of Pilgrims which landed at Plymouth Rock, and commenced the settlement of New England.

general thanksgiving was ordained by Governor Kiaft to be observed through the limits of New Netherland for the restoration of peace with the Indians, showing that this festival, which is by many asserted to be exclusively puritanical, was also observed by the Dutch when occasion offered itself.

casion offered itself.

1676.

The Massachusetts forces, having subdued Philip, turned their arms against the Eastern Indians, and surprised about 400 of them at Cocheco, in Maine, who were all taken; those found accessory to the late rebellion, being about half the number, were sold into slavery, and several who had committed murders were hung.

1781.

Fort Griswold taken by the British, under Arnold, and the garrison put to the sword. Colonel Ledyard, who commanded the fort, was run through the body with his own sword, after he had surrendered. Of the garrison, seventy-three were killed, thirty or forty wounded and forty taken prisoners. British loss, forty-eight killed and 142 wounded.

New London was set on fire, sixty dwellings and eighty-four stores

Battle of Plattsburgh, or Lake Champlain, for it was on both land and water, Commodore McDonough commanding the American fleet, and Commodore Downie the English, whose loss was nearly 2,500 men.

The British forces, under General Whish, besieged the city of Moulton, in Northern India, and were forced on the 14th to withdraw with much loss.

1862. Twelve hundred troops attack the Union garrison at Washington, N. C., but were repulsed.

1866

The monument to the memory of Stephen A. Douglas, at Chicago, in-augurated. It was the President's journey to attend this inauguration that was called his "swinging the circle," a figur borrowed rfom one of his own speeches."

A train on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad covered 128 miles in 125

# SUPERSTITIONS OF STAGE FOLK.

liefs-Various III Omens. turn of Fortune's wheel. Firm Hold of the Thirteen Vagary-Evil in Perfect Dress Rehearsal - "Storms" Made to Order-Patti and the Evil Eye, Etc.

## By Lyman B. Glover.

(Dramatic Critic; for Two Years General

Manager for Richard Mansfield.)
(Copyright, 1904, by Joseph B. Bowles.)
It is a moot question which is the more superstitious, the actor or the gambler. The association of classes in this case is not complimentary to people who walk the stage, but superstition, like poverty, waker strange bedfellows, and for some

singular reason which has been any other as believers in luck.

Of course we do not take account, in this connection, of savage hordes whose every act in life is governed by blind superstition, since the savage has such a versatile, imagination, reinforced by so many kinds of ignorance, that no one can hope to keep pace with him. The superstition to which reference is now being made is that of the intelligent classes, and certainly no one will deny the gift of intelligence to the real actor or the genuine gambler.

and certainly no one will deny the gift of intelligence to the real actor or the genuine gambler.

The latter is an absolute devotee of luck. He furtively rubs the hump of a deformed dwarf in the firm belief that this senseless act will bring him good fortune, and the various incantations which belong to his repertory would form the subject of quite an extended story. The actor is not quite so frank in his adherence to the degerine of lucky chances. Some of his beliefs are never expressed save in a hesitating, shamefaced way, yet when pressed he will not deny that adverse signs make him uncomfortable. Should he chance to walk under a hadder which the carcless stage carpenter has left where it does not belong that day and perhaps many other days would be rendered miserable by the lineident. Not that he really believes ladders possess any special potency for imposing lils, but through some subconscious mental process not to be explained he into subscribed to the anvient superstition and, without knowing why, the under side of a ladder has bocome the omen of evil which he invariably regards with a feeling skin to terror, particularly if he encounters it on the stage.

The thirteen superstition is so university the supposite of the stage.

Counters it on the stage.

The thirteen superstition is so universally current that it cannot be ascribed poculiarly to people of the stage, yet incy are actively alive to the ominous significance of the symbol and apply it in their own way to the detail of their work. Should there chance to be thirteen work. Should there chance to be thirteen work in the engagement until there is a change in the writing to either reduce or aug. Thus at the small processity would induce or aug. Thus at the small processity would induce or aug. Thus at the small processity work in the cast, there would certainly be something work to the notice of the company. It would be necessary to manufacture an additional character at once, in default of which the distressed artists would resume than a deresslag-room bearing the fata number would occasion something more than a clear engagement.

That a dresslag-room bearing the fata number would occasion something more than cold silvers is so well known to local managers that they dodge the issue either by jumping those dreaded figures or by applying letters of the alphabet, most of which are not supposed to represent any adverse fate or unkind inflicence. When the thirteenth of the month falls on Friday the spirit of superstition in the work of the play is a fair favor due. The play is the poles and our labours can be pole and no disaster befall pusiness be good and no disaster befall pusiness be good

Most Actors, Like Gamblers,

Devotees of Superstitious Be
The Alexander of Superstitions Be
The Alexander of Superstition of Superstitions Be
The Alexander of Superstition of Superstit

What a reasonless machine Can superstition make the reas ner man

Still more typical is the suppratition sal portends a frightful failure on the that a smooth and portect dress rehear-opening night. This is a belief to which, apparently, there are no exceptions, and so deeply is it ingrained that many times and oft the directing spirit of a rehearsal has calmly broken in upon the placid current and precipitated a storm, with all of its unkind attendant evils, in order to allay the dread of a smooth rehearsal. of its unkind attendant evils, in order to allay the dread of a smooth rehearsal. Several great people of the stage I have known are peculiarly susceptible to this strange belief. (One, a choleric man, whose artistic temperament is made the excuse for many trying eccentricities, is noted in his own company and in a narrow circle of those who know, for the pyrotechnical displays of temper that attend every lost rehearsal.

No matter how serene the sky No matter how serene the sky nity he at the outset a cloudburst may be depended upon before the second act is finished. If nothing occurs legitipately to draw the lightning and set he occurents at war one with the other, the great man anxious to proputate the spirit of disaster short circuits the situation, so to speak, by some pretext seemingly quite gratuitous and undurent sary, after which "bubble, bubble, toil ments at war one with the otro; the great man anxious to propostate the spirit of disaster short circuits the situation, so to speak, by some pretext to the state of the spirit of disaster short circuits the situation, so to speak, by some pretext to the state of the state of thought or opinion, glades and trouble" all hell seems to stir. The storm, centered at first on some minor conflict of thought or opinion, gladeually swells into an all-embracing cyclone from whose vortex nothing escapes. Even the objects and clie to some some more from the storm center and pritically safe are presently drawn in and the bilizard sweeps impartially upon the just and the unjust, the innocent and the guilt, until they are all, so to speak, in one red burial blent,

The rehearsal is dismissed, the first performance ordered postponed, and then with the climax reached a gradual diminuendo begins. The stage manager hurries about with his orders to reconvene the rehearsal; the rumbings of the storm become more distant, and presently, with the faces propitiated, everything is in full swing once more. The expected has happened, and those who have passed through other storms on like occasions are cheered by the comfortable superstition that the wrath of a possible failure has been laid.

Yet another rehearsal superstition is that which prohibits utterance of the storm one with the close by he rhated contemporary.

on like Superstition that the wrath of a possible failure has been laid. Yet another rehearsal superstition is that which prohibits utterance of the final words, or tag, of the play. The tag, or epilogue proper, is an institution of the old English drama which has well nigh, disappeared from view. It is a sort of postlude spoken to the audience by one of the principal characters after the action of the play is complete. Its purpose being to return thanks and curry favor with the audience by means of a few well-turned phrases. Thus at the end of Philip Massinger's famous play "A New Way to Pay Old Debts." we find this final address to the audience:

We all submit to you, nor dare pre-

think there's any real worth is

them;
Sometimes feasts please the cooks and
not the guests;
Sometimes the guests, and curious cooks
contemn them,
Our dishes we entirely dedicate
To our Adnd guests; but since you differ so,
Some to like mirth without taxations.

fer so,

Some to like mirth without taxations,

Some to count such works trifles and
such like,

We can but bring you meat, and set

your stools
And to our best cheer say, you are allwelcome. welcome,

These tags, which possess but little more than a certain crude frankness, were always reserved for the opening night of a play. They were never uttered at rehearsal, and members of the company knew nothing about their tener until the fateful night arrived. Sometimes the actor designated to recite the lines was not placed in possession of them until the last moment owing to personal allusion which they often contained, some of them being rather pointed references to royalty.

Out of this custom of secrecy in regard to the tag grow the superstition that it was unlucky to speak the concluding lines of a play at a rehearsal, and the tradition is never overstepped without an apprehensive shudder.

The umbrella superstition is rather more

The umbrella superstition is rather more omen of failure if an umbrella should To raised at the outset of rehearsals. In more than one instance the manager has chucked the entire undertaking because an uniucky wight thoughtlessly spread an umbrella within the precincts of the stage. It does not matter at all that the business of the play requires an open umbrella. This must be left to the imagination until the audience is present, when by some hocus pocus rather difficult to analyze the curse is removed and cult to analyze the curse is removed and no harm can be done by the parachute.

It scarcely seems necessary to say that

the emcacy of knocking on wood to counteract any possible spell that might be conjured up by some self-congratula-tory or incautious remark is thoroughly confided in by stage folk. This, indeed, is often considered an antidote for that spirit of optimism which is inclined to predict a good season or the favorable issue of any dramatic enterprise. Here spirit of optimism which is inclined to predict a good season or the favorable issue of any dramatic enterprise. Here again we find a superstition peculiar to the histrionic mind, although not absolutely confined to it. It is something of a paradox in its way, since no one induiges more conspicuously in the pleasures of hope than the actor. Yet, though his innermost soul may be illumined by a joyous expectation of success, this is confessed only with an active expression of distrust and a persistent thumping on wood to allay any spirit of evil that may be ready to smother out his sweet anticipations. Not for the world would he induige in anything less than the roslest dramas of success, yet wild horses could not drag from him the admission that he confidently expects success. Another paradox of superstition in connection with the stage is the singular attitude of a company toward the new play which happens to be in rehearsal. Should it appeal to them as a success and excitation that actors are worst possible judges of plays stares them in the face. They do not believe any heresy so disrespectful to their own judgment, yet superstition even more than conscience doth make cowards of us all, and the conflicting emotions of the moment result in discomfart and unhappiness. Of this other hand, and logically enough, once we accept this point of yiew, they are comfortable and complacent in the presence of a play that seems to them unterly impossible.

The superstition of the evil eye is perhaps peculiarly Latin and does not aphage.

The superstition of the evil eye is per-haps pecularly Latin and does not ap-peal with much force to the Anglo-Saxon, yet our stage, which is cosmopolitan, has contributed many examples of be-the form of superstition. Colonel lief in this form of superstition memoirs) which meat people of which even the great people of which even the great people of the which even and by a belief in fate expressed through some unusual symbol. It was in Chicago during that memorable season of warfare between Abbey and Mapleson which practically ruined both managers. Gorster and Pattly of the Mapleson or "Her Majesty's Company," as it was called, were singing one right in "Les Huguenots," with Pattl as Valentine and Gerster as the Queen. At the close of the first act, in which Valentine has but little music and Gerster as tract, as the close of the first act, in which Valentine has but little music and Gerster as tract, as the close of the first act, in which valentine has but little music and Gerster as the Queen. The start a great deal, the ushers blundered into handing an enormous array of flowers across the footlights to Patti. They were intended for a later moment in the performance, but the audience, thinking it a sign to crush Gerster, who received only one bouquet, cheered her weldliv and permitted Patti to leave the

by Gerster, extended he has a less fingers in the direction of the alles sorceress, as if to ward off any ger of evil that may have been set loose he rhated contemporary.

"Such folly." says the wise man as he counts the guests at the table to see if they outnumber thirteen. "How ridiculous to put faith in superstition." Meanwhile the country is marked somewhat in the

## I is an intensely and interesting article on the important subject, and we should like printed an interesting article on the interesting article or articl school children of this city. The article was written by Miss Cally Ryland, who very kindly took upon herself the arduous service of acting on the committee